

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, December 4, 2000

Present: Billis, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Judy Horton; Clark Long; Dick Sanderson; Larry LeCureux; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Gene Sanderson; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Jeremy Boyd, Treasurer; Kathleen Pierce; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Cheryl Kribs; Frank Svrcek; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; Fred & Betty Bates; Don Seymour, Blumerich Communications; Robert Gilman; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not have a problem with Item No. 4, but asked who put the item on the agenda and why council was not advised that the item was going to be put on the agenda prior to the meeting. Ms. Hitchcock advised the item was presented to council for their review, and it was their choice if they wanted it to go to a public hearing. She further advised there have been problems in the past with year round garage sales. She also advised the police chief asked the city attorney if there was language that would cover the situation since the city code does not address the situation. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the police chief came to Ms. Hitchcock with what he saw as a problem. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Runyan asked if the proposed wording was from the city attorney. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Bayless stated he thought the Commercial Building contract was supposed to be on the agenda. Ms. Hitchcock advised she spoke with Terry Hayes today and explained to him the contract would be on the next agenda.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to approve

the vendor disbursements as presented. Councilperson Ockerman publicly thanked Gary Nequist for all of the electrical work he has done for the city and advised that Mr. Nequist has not asked for anything. Mayor Billis advised Mr. Nequist has submitted a bill for \$500. Councilperson Ockerman stated he had asked Mr. Nequist to submit a bill but did not know if he would. Councilperson Ockerman further stated Mr. Nequist was not even going to submit a bill without his insistence, and was glad that he did.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Betty Bates, 217 W. McNeil Street, stated there are rocks located by the curb on her side of the street that are not being used in the street, and she was wondering how the city would handle the rock situation if the snow plows throw the rocks in the grass area between the sidewalk and the curb. She further stated she is afraid the stones will ruin her snow blower or break out a window. Ms. Bates asked if the streets under construction would be full of ruts and mud all winter. Ms. Hitchcock advised Mr. Crawford would be talking to the contractor to find out when the concrete would be poured. Mr. Crawford advised the street would be finished shortly. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Bates if she was satisfied with the answer she received. Ms. Bates advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city could pick up the stones. Mr. Crawford advised the stones are coming from the gravel that was placed there by the contractor.

CONSIDER MOTOROLA/NEXTEL SYSTEM: Ms. Hitchcock stated the city was looking at purchasing 12 Nextel phones to use for two-way communication and to get rid of some of the phone lines that are only used on an emergency basis such as the water tower and the water pump station. She further stated since the costs are higher than what was budgeted this year, she would like to purchase five phones, which will be used by the police chief, police sergeant, superintendent of public works, herself and the on-call department of public works employee. By purchasing these phones, the city would be able to see how well the phones would work and what costs would be cut. She also stated Don Seymour from Blumerich Communications was present to answer any questions about the equipment. Mayor Billis asked how much it was presently costing the city. Ms. Hitchcock advised \$4,000 per year. Mayor Billis asked how much it would cost to go to the Nextel system. Ms. Hitchcock advised \$7,500, which would include purchasing the equipment. Mayor Billis asked if there would be any added benefits by going to the Nextel system. Ms. Hitchcock advised there would be immediate communication with the contractors, engineers, and department of public works employees. Phone calls would be able to be made from the field, which the police department and department of public works are unable to do now. She further advised it would also eliminate long distance fees. Mayor Billis asked if there would be any direct financial benefits that would save the city money. Ms. Hitchcock advised in a situation where there is a water main break there would be immediate contact with someone to start repairing the break. Councilperson Runyan asked if the Nextel phones would be code activated to allow only one person to use the phone or if the phones could be shared. Ms. Hitchcock advised she

was suggesting purchasing five phones to see how they would work and if they work well, then the additional seven would be purchased in the next budget year. Mayor Billis asked if he was correct that a lithium ion battery was a more expensive battery and if there were other batteries available. Don Seymour, Blumerich Communications, explained there are multiple batteries available for all the Nextel products. The user can alter the life of a battery dramatically by placing the phone in a charger each and every time the phone is used. The user is creating and starting a new charging cycle and it is best to charge the phone when it needs to be charged. Mayor Billis asked which battery was least expensive; nickel or lithium ion. Mr. Seymour advised Nextel was currently offering just one battery with its product, which is the lithium ion. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city was receiving a discounted price on the phones. Mr. Seymour advised yes, but the price was based on quantity. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city could get a printout of all calls made. Mr. Seymour advised the city would receive a detailed bill from Nextel, which will include the date, time, and dialed number of each call made. Councilperson Hornus asked if the quote the city received from Blumerich Communications would also apply to five phones. Mr. Seymour advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Seymour if he was making his money on airtime. Mr. Seymour advised no, it is called a finder's fee, which is a one-time fee paid by Nextel to the activation originator. He further advised 35 percent of the people who buy a Nextel product stop their service within six months. He also advised there are a lot of places where a Nextel product would not work, and the council room was one of those places. Mr. Seymour stated cell phones work better than digital products, but the Nextel product has a great two-way capability at no cost. He further stated the Nextel phones were not intended to replace the phones in city hall. Councilperson Ockerman asked if there would be 300 minutes of free airtime. Mr. Seymour advised the package the city was looking at has unlimited two-way airtime. Councilperson Ockerman stated he could not see where there would be an advantage of using the Nextel system if someone could not get through to someone from inside of a building. Mr. Seymour advised the Nextel product was an excellent product for outside use, but there are a number of devices available to make the walls, electronically speaking, disappear. Councilperson Ockerman asked how much one of those devices would cost. Mr. Seymour advised between \$220 and \$600. Mr. Seymour reminded council the Nextel system was not a replacement for a conventional two-way radio system. Mr. Seymour advised most of the municipalities in Genesee County have gone to these types of network products to instantaneously react to situations. Councilperson Ockerman stated he could see purchasing three phones. Mr. Seymour advised that was why Ms. Hitchcock brought up the idea of going to five phones. Councilperson Ockerman stated that was too many. Mr. Seymour asked how many departments the city has. Councilperson Ockerman stated he could see a need for the department of public works, police chief and perhaps the city manager to have one. Councilperson Runyan asked if the phones could be coded and shared. Mr. Seymour advised yes, both models the city was looking at have a password protection capability. Mayor Billis stated since council has a lot of information to absorb it might be best to table the item. Councilperson Bendall stated she would like a breakdown of any cost savings. Ms. Hitchcock advised she would get council a breakdown and suggested putting the item on the next agenda since the prices were only good through the end of the year. Councilperson Bayless stated the phones include voice

mail and this is the number one communication tool used at General Motors. Ms. Hitchcock asked council to contact her within the next week if they had any questions. Councilperson Ockerman stated he would be in favor of purchasing one phone for the superintendent of public works, police chief, fire chief, city manager, and one as a spare.

Ms. Hitchcock made a request to change the order of the remaining agenda items since Mark Nottley from the Michigan Municipal League had another appointment he needed to get to. Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to change the order of the agenda by switching item numbers two and three around.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY PRESENTATION: Mark Nottley from the Michigan Municipal League explained the classification and compensation study that was prepared for the city. He stated each employee was interviewed and asked to fill out a questionnaire in order to develop a job description. He reviewed several areas of the study and explained the city was low in the area of department head pay. Councilperson Ockerman stated there are reasons why some of the department head's pay are low. Mr. Nottley stated he noticed that council was interested in precise numbers when the last individual spoke, and he was giving council precise numbers to bring the department heads into the minimum range. Councilperson Dumond stated as a member of the labor committee, he was in favor of finding out how the city rates with other municipalities. Councilperson Runyan asked if the study included the cost of benefits. Mr. Nottley advised no. Councilperson Bendall asked if the salary range should be adjusted yearly for cost of living. Mr. Nottley advised yes.

CONSIDER PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to accept the appointment of Kathleen Pierce as the Parks & Recreation Director. Kathleen Pierce introduced herself and advised council she was going for her Masters Degree in Parks and Recreation at Central Michigan University, and does research work out of her home. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was opposed to the position but not to Ms. Pierce. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Pierce if she had a background in grant writing. Ms. Pierce advised she never wrote one, but it was something she was very interested in. Councilperson Runyan asked if Ms. Pierce would be paid the same amount as the last director. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Bendall, Runyan, Bayless.

No: Ockerman.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR DECEMBER 18, 2000 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER

ORDINANCE 2000-05 ADDING ARTICLE V-GARAGE SALES TO CHAPTER 34-ENVIRONMENT, OF THE CORUNNA CITY CODE:

Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to set a public hearing for December 18, 2000 at 7:15 p.m. to consider Ordinance 2000-05 adding Article V-Garage Sales to Chapter 34-Environment, of the Corunna City Code.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton asked how many people in the audience had been down to the park to see the lights. She advised Merilee Lawson did an outstanding job in putting up the lights.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:57 p.m.

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DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK